

Tampa Bay Estuary Program Key Elements to Success

Based on December 5, 2016 presentation by

Holly Greening, TBEP Director hgreening@tbep.org

Charlie Justice, Pinellas County Commissioner cjustice@pinellascounty.org

Structure of Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) - Established 1991

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – committees provide advice to TBEP staff, not to Management Board – so not in sunshine
- Management Board (MB) – 20 members, recommends to
- Policy Board (PB) – 10 people that give final approval - Voting members of policy board includes a business person, and local government

EARLY Key Element: Resolution to Participate

Consider an ‘Agreement to Participate’

- All PB and MB parties sign on to collaborate and act in good faith
- Agree to identify the goals
- Agree to contribute funds and/or in-kind to support technical work
- Agree to stay science-based

Key Element: Choosing a Entity Type

- Hosted within an existing government structure (Local government; Agency; Regional Planning Council)
 - Existing infrastructure and support; possible existing staff
 - Subject to host’s requirements (travel, purchasing, etc)
 - May not be viewed as independent
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
 - Requires start-up formation, need to provide support structure
 - Independent
 - May be viewed as competition to existing NGOs
 - Can include public and private sectors
- Independent Special District (State of Florida Statute 189)
 - Requires Interlocal Agreement and funding commitments
 - Public sector
 - Independent
 - Need to provide support structure

Agree to provide funds and/or in-kind services

Host entity – depends on community – local government or Regional Planning Council

Subject to host’s requirements re travel, purchasing – Estuary Program may be viewed as not independent

TBEP started hosted by Regional Planning Council for 6 years, then decided wanted to become independent

Early Key elements:

- Establish entity's functions
 - Organize and facilitate
 - Manage finances; grant applications
 - Point of contact
 - Manage technical contractors/projects
 - Prepare annual assessments on progress
 - Outreach and Education
 - Report to stakeholders, agencies and the public
- Synthesize existing information and identify gaps
 - Status and trends of important natural resources, water quality, pollution sources, other impacts
 - Technical and public documents
 - Document and track ongoing projects and actions
 - Identify and prioritize critical gaps in information or knowledge needed to make management decisions (2-day workshop)
- Adopt measurable goals
 - Resource goals considered important by scientists, policymakers and the public
- Invite all to participate in a **collaborative process**
 - Public sector
 - Private sector- mining
 - Regulatory agencies
 - Agriculture (FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services)
 - Electric utilities
 - Environmental groups

e.g., Tampa Bay Nitrogen (N) Management Consortium

- 45 public/private partners, watershed approach
- 500 projects and actions.
- N load has decreased, even with population increase
- Nonpoint source is a focus for the program
- Still took 5 years after Advanced Wastewater Treatment started to show significant improvement

Tampa Bay Business Journal article – *Clean Water Means More Than You Think*

- 1/5 jobs in TBEP watershed depends on a healthy bay
- What is the added value of a healthy bay

Key Elements in Tampa Bay's Collaborative Management Strategy

- Target resources identified by both public and science as “worthy” indicators
- Community willing to work together towards common goals
- Science-based numeric goals and targets
- Multiple tools: Regulation; public/private collaborative actions; citizen actions
- Long-term monitoring
- Convener to track, facilitate, report progress

- Assessment and adjustment
- Link to economic value of a healthy bay

Charlie Justice, Commissioner Pinellas County on his experience with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program

- Essential to have a good team, solid executive director
- Agree to stay science-based – gives scientific credibility when go to others – key to everything
- Allows pooling of resources
- Additional funding from three cities and four counties
- Depository of fed grants/donations
- Good opportunity for relationship with other local governments, agencies on the board – good for going to legislature, showing partnership
- Opens door for more partnerships – fishers, environmental groups, tourism, agriculture, non-traditional environmental groups
- Show how benefits everyday life
- Important aspects – locally driven, voluntary and non-regulatory